



ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

Library

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior

Public Health Inspector

for

1964

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Atherton Urban District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor P. JONES

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor G. FIRTH

Councillors:

L. COOP	S. LOVELESS	J. SUMNER
E. DONOGHUE	W. MURPHY	C. URMSTON
F. FILDES	R. SHAW	J. WESTWELL
W. GOULDEN	R. D. HODGKISS	W. WILLIAMS
H. GREENHALGH	A. HOLLIDAY	
O. P. ALEXANDER	J. STIRZAKER	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

**THOMAS McGUIRE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., I.S.A.A.(Dip.),
Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection**

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

**ALAN JACKSON, M.A.P.H.I.,
EDWARD BLACK, M.A.P.H.I.,**

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT—CLEAN AIR:

T. BLAKELEY

CLERICAL ASSISTANT:

MRS. S. CONNELLY

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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Atherton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ending 31st December, 1964.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population was 19,520, a decrease of 370 compared with 1963, and a reduction of 235 compared with the 1961 census.

There was a total of 339 live births and a total of 267 deaths. Basically, therefore, there was a natural increase in population of 72, and it would, consequently, appear that 442 people must have migrated from the district.

No maternal deaths occurred but there was an increase in the infantile mortality rate to 35.4, well above the national figure. The pattern of the causes of death conformed to the national trends. Almost half were due to strokes and heart disease, one tenth due to respiratory diseases, and one seventh due to malignant diseases.

In the day to day duties of the department, slum clearance, closing of unfit houses, house repairs and maintenance has merited considerable attention throughout the year. A further five-year slum clearance programme was presented to the Council of properties proposed to be dealt with during 1965-1970.

Meat inspection at two wholesale establishments, the larger one in particular, called for considerable attention daily from one of the two additional inspectors. During the year some 16,000 cattle and 14,000 sheep were inspected.

The hygiene, sanitary conditions and circumstances affecting food shops, bakehouses, manufacturers and ancilliary food traders, play a prominent part in 'district inspectorial work. The introduction of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises legislation makes further demands on the department.

The determination of the Council to proceed with the No. 2 Smoke Control Area resulted in a Public Inquiry being held in October and a decision by the Minister in favour of the Order should result in it coming in to operation during 1965.

Public cleansing and tip control was not carried out without some frustration, but it is pleasing to note that the acquisition of a new tipping location can be expected shortly, and this should solve the disposal problem for some time.

In conclusion, my thanks are due to my fellow officers in all departments for their co-operation, and to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,
E. TAYLOR



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SECTION A

Statistics

SECTION A

STATISTICS

General Statistics

Area in acres—2,265.

Population—

1961 Census—19,755.

Mid-1964 Estimate—19,520.

Number of inhabited houses—6,931.

Rateable Value—£493,602 at 31st December, 1964.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£1,900 at 31st December, 1964.

Vital Statistics

Live Births:—				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	168	163	331
Illegitimate	...	...	..	5	3	8
Total				173	166	339

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) 17.4

Still Births:—				Males	Females	Total
				7	4	11

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) 31.4

Deaths—All Causes:—				Males	Females	Total
				148	119	267

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 13.7

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 13.7

Maternal Deaths Nil

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births) Nil

Infant Deaths 11

Infantile Death Rate (per 1,000 live births) 35.4

Neo-Natal Deaths 9

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 26.5

Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 **total** births) 57.1

TABLE I
VITAL STATISTICS

	•Live Births		Stillbirths		•Deaths (all causes)		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality Total		Neo-Natal	
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. of regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1964.....	339	17.4	11	31.4	267	13.7	nil	nil	12	35.4	9	26.5
Year 1963	338	17.7	8	23.1	286	14.1	nil	nil	9	26.6	6	17.8
Year 1962	358	18.1	7	19.2	316	15.9	nil	nil	8	22.3	5	14
Year 1961	321	16.2	14	41.8	280	14.6	nil	nil	9	28	7	21.8
Year 1960	327	16.5	9	26.8	251	12.7	nil	nil	7	21.4	5	15.3
Year 1959	308	15.6	8	25.3	305	15.1	1	3.16	2	6.5	1	3.2
Avge. 5 years— 1958-62	330.4	16.84	9.2	27.24	287.6	14.48	0.2	0.632	7	20.96	4.8	14.42

*Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.04) = 17.7 per 1,000.
death rate (comparability factor, 0.98) = 14.1 per 1,000.

TABLE II
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1964
Registrar General's Return

CAUSE OF DEATH	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	...
Syphilitic Disease	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...
Meningococcal Infections	1	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...
Measles	...	...
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	13	5
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...
Diabetes	...	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	21	24
Coronary Disease. Angina	30	15
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	...
Other Heart Disease	15	22
Other Circulatory Disease	9	7
Influenza	...	...
Pneumonia	4	4
Bronchitis	8	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	9	...
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...
Congenital Malformations	2	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	11	16
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	2
All other Accidents	5	4
Suicide	4	...
Homicide and operations of war	...	...
TOTAL	148	119

TABLE III

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and death rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales in the year 1964.

(Provisional figures based on Registrar General's Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

Estimated home population mid-1964—47,401,300.

Births	No.	Rate per 1,000 home population
Live Births	874,110	18.4
Stillbirths	14,524	0.31
Deaths		16.3 (a)
All Causes	534,556	11.3
Tuberculosis (all forms)	2,483	0.052
Respiratory	2,208	0.007
Non-respiratory	275	0.006
Cancer (all forms)	104,698	2.21
Lung and bronchus	25,371	0.54
Other cancer	79,327	1.67
Maternal mortality (total)	226	0.25 (a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	176	0.20 (a)
Due to abortion	50	0.06 (a)
Infant mortality	17,507	20.0 (b)
Neo-natal mortality	12,106	13.8 (b)
Notifications (corrected)		
Typhoid fever	120	0.003
Paratyphoid fever	230	0.005
Meningococcal infection	505	0.011
Scarlet fever	20,126	0.425
Whooping cough	31,609	0.667
Diphtheria	20	0.000
Erysipelas	1,740	0.037
Smallpox	—	Nil
Measles	306,721	6.471
Acute pneumonia	1,252	0.195
Acute Poliomyelitis—		
Paralytic	31	0.001
Non-paralytic	8	0.000
Acute encephalitis—		
Infective	114	0.002
Post-infectious	143	0.003
Dysentery	20,163	0.425
Food poisoning	5,425	0.114
Puerperal pyrexia	6,030	0.127
Tuberculosis—		
Respiratory	15,026	0.317
Meninges and C.N.S.	144	0.003
Other	2,437	0.051
Anthrax	5	0.000
(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	(b) Per 1,000 live births.	

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

SECTION B

HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance

Atherton Ambulance Station, Back Orchard Lane. Tel. Swinton 4343.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer: Miss J. L. Edwards, B.A., Williams Deacons Bank Chambers, Leigh. Tel. Leigh 72206.

1. ANTE-NATAL

Alder House Clinic.

Each Tuesday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

2. DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION

(i) Every Monday and Wednesday afternoon for other than poliomyelitis.

(ii) Poliomyelitis (Oral Vaccine) Thursday mornings, 9-30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

(iii) General Practitioner Service.

3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

4. OPHTHALMIC

Alder House Clinic, by appointment.

Each Tuesday morning.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC

Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley, by appointment.

Second Thursday mornings of each month.

6. POST-NATAL

Alder House Clinic.

Each Tuesday, 11 a.m.

7. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Thursday mornings.

8. SPEECH THERAPY

Stonehouse Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

9. CHEST CLINIC

Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

10. VENEREAL DISEASES

(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males: Monday to Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 4-30 to 7 p.m.

Females: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9-30 to 11-30 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 4-30 to 7 p.m.

(ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males: Friday, 2 to 6-30 p.m.

Females: Wednesday, 2 to 6 p.m.

(iii) Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

Males and Females: Monday, 9-30 to 10-30 a.m.

Convalescence

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisional Medical Officer.

Convalescent Treatment

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

Health Visiting Service

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

Home Help Service

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Also Fridays only at Alder House Clinic.

Home Nursing Service

District Nurses employed by the Lancashire C.C. are available in the district.

Hospitals

1. GENERAL

Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital, Astley Hospital.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton; Whelley Hospital, Wigan.

3. MATERNITY

Billinge Hospital, Billinge.

Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Board Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries and the Monsall Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Maternity Homes

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Midwifery Service

Domiciliary midwives employed whole-time in the area by Lancashire C.C.

Nursing Homes

None in the district.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

Welfare Services

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C.
Residential accommodation under Divisional arrangements.

X-ray Facilities

At Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

SECTION C

Prevalence of and Control over
Infectious and other Diseases

SECTION C

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

It is again pleasing to report no notified cases of diphtheria. Facilities for immunisation are still available.

Dysentery

A further drop in figures. Only one notified case for the year.

Erysipelas

Four cases reported for the year in age group 45 years and over.

Food Poisoning

No cases during the year.

Malaria

No notifications received.

Measles

A drop in the total notified cases from 429 to 286 during the current year.

Meningococcal Infection

No cases for the year.

Paratyphoid Fever

No notifications for the year.

Pneumonia

Seven cases of primary and influenzal pneumonia were notified. Four cases under 15 years and three over 45 years of age.

Poliomyelitis

There were no notifications of this disease and the oral vaccine campaign has had a good response. This is still readily available at Alder House Clinic.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Two cases notified for the year.

Scarlet Fever

Five cases, all in children under six years, were notified.

Smallpox

No cases or contacts reported.

Tuberculosis

Five respiratory cases and one non-respiratory case reported during the year.

One male death aged over 65 years is recorded.

Typhoid Fever

No notifications received.

Whooping Cough

Twelve cases reported as against 37 of the year before.

TABLE IV

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1964

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED												
	Years												
	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over	
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles, excl. German Measles	286	35	41	44	46	95	5	1	—	—	—	—	
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	2	1	
Acute Poliio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever	5	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	12	2	2	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Malaria (contracted abroad) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—													
Males	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Females	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—													
Males	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	323	23	37	43	46	49	99	10	5	4	5	1	

TABLE V

Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years

Year	Birth-rate	Death-rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	Diphtheria		Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under two years)	Measles		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever	
		Actual	Adjusted		Cases	Deaths		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1900	36.7	16.49	...	161.6	3	14	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	29	...	13	2
1905	30.9	13.7	...	141.8	40	34	...	5	...	...	24	...	...	55	1	17	5
1910	26.47	14.67	...	154.1	20	15	...	6	...	...	36	...	...	88	...	19	3
1915	25.44	13.11	...	103.09	31	13	...	9	...	...	44	...	...	100	...	7	2
1920	24.1	12.1	...	109	24	9	...	2	...	...	15	...	...	49	...	2	2
1925	15.4	10.9	...	63	29	3	...	1	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	1	1
1930	15.3	10.6	...	61	8	...	...	5	...	...	5	...	...	52	...	1	...
1935	13.3	12.6	14.3	73	10	1	...	3	...	...	4	...	...	42	...	1	...
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	127	...	...	3	...	...	9	...	...	78	...	...	...
1940	15.5	12.0	...	35	9	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	37	...	...	...
1943	18.2	12.8	...	74	12	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	88	...	...	...
1944	16.29	11.86	...	60	8	1	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	70	...	...	...
1945	17.9	11.3	...	23	2	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	42	...	...	...
1946	17.6	10.9	...	33	5	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	22	...	...	...
1947	19.7	13.3	...	50	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	79	...	...	...
1948	15.2	10.0	...	28	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	104	...	...	...
1953	15.1	21.6	22.9	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
1954	13.7	11.8	12.6	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
1955	12.6	13.0	14.0	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
1956	15.2	12.8	14.3	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
1957	14.6	15.8	17.4	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
1958	16.5	14.3	14.3	18.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
1959	15.6	15.4	15.1	6.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
1960	16.5	12.7	12.7	21.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
1961	16.2	14.1	14.6	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
1962	18.1	15.9	15.3	22.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1963	17.7	14.4	14.1	26.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1964	17.4	13.7	14.1	35.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

SECTION D

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The town mains supply is that of the Manchester Corporation Water Undertaking and there are no private well supplies in the area. This supply has been well maintained throughout the year, being of good quality and adequate pressure.

Requests for survey for leaks or of abnormal colour following repairs or of other demands on the undertaking have met with a worthwhile response.

Samples taken both by the undertaking and by the Health Department have resulted in satisfactory analytical reports.

Streams

The streams and watercourses of the town receive storm water overflow from the sewers, designed to meet the requirements of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961. The colliery washing water affects the vegetation of such streams that receive that discharge, but analysis of water samples taken, however, show nothing to cause alarm.

There are no dye works or chemical works in the town and consequently no problem of such resultant effluents.

The streams do get unsightly from the quantity of debris of all kinds that misguided persons so recklessly abandon, and although every effort is made to prevent this and staff employed to recover this material, the accumulation continues and the free flow of water is impeded.

Drainage and Sewerage

The town drainage and sewage is mainly the combined drainage system and covers the whole town with the exception of a small number of isolated pockets. These latter, whilst not connected to the main sewer system, are adequately serviced by their own septic tank disposal.

The future trend is that there should be separate storm water and foul drainage systems and this is being put into operation on all newly developed sites where practicable. This to comply with new acts and legislation.

A storm of unusual severity during July caused considerable flooding and resultant damage but generally the water level was reasonably contained.

All sewage of the town is dealt with by the Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewage works on the Leigh-Atherton boundary.

Sanitary Accommodation

At the end of 1964 the approximate numbers and types of of closet accommodation were as follows:

Number of Privy Middens	Nil
Number of Pail Closets	2
Number of Trough Closets	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets	399
Number of Freshwater Closets	7,821
Number of Dry Ashpits	Nil

Number of Moveable Ashbins	7,161
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	6,931

Conversions during 1963:

Number of Privy Closets to Pail Closets	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	75

The scheme for the allowance of £9 towards the cost of conversion of waste water to fresh water flush closets continues side by side with standard improvement grants, and applicants choose whichever is the more equitable to them. Conditions imposed and expected life of the property often, however, determines the action taken.

Disinfestation

All disinfestation is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department. A trained operator is employed and dealt with three privately owned dwelling houses and two Council owned dwelling houses during the year. Two factories and two food depots were treated for insect infestation.

The residual spray insecticides of DDT/Malathion are most effective plus Dethlar aerosols which are quite sound and of lasting effect.

Infestation in factories or other business premises is carried out on a service charge basis.

Public Cleansing

The collection and disposal of house refuse is carried out under the control of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The district is divided into four areas and in each area a side loading collecting vehicle operates. Each has a team of driver and four loaders and a weekly collection is maintained. There are periods following holidays and vehicle breakdowns when the weekly collection gets disrupted, but overtime is then worked on the Saturday in an endeavour to contain this period.

The Council have agreed to introduce the more hygienic and efficient Pakamatic refuse loader during the year 1965 and this is welcomed.

Further tipping land has been secured at a location known as Swan Island Quarry. This disused clay quarry should give a tipping location for at least five years and is ideally situated, being behind a colliery and away from residential locality.

Covering of refuse with spoil is more readily possible, having such material on the location and the mechanical shovel is able to effect a more proper control of consolidation and cover.

Waste paper salvage is continued as in other years and a total of 203 tons of paper sold to the merchants resulted in an income of £1,070.

Factories and Workplaces

Inspections in this field throughout the year show that standards are reasonably maintained. Cotton mills, manufacturing chemists, nut and bolt manufacturers, steel and iron and a number of other light industries make a demand on the time of the inspectorate.

It is found that generally the management are willing to co-operate and accept the verbal requests of the inspector, to meet the legislative requirements.

TABLE VI
FACTORIES ACT, 1961

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	9	17	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	72	113	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises	4	6	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	85	136	6	—
	—	—	—	—

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found	Abated	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	11	10	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	2	2	—
Drainage of Floors	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective . .	11	11	—
Other Offences against the Act	1	—	—
	—	—	—
Total ...	25	23	—
	—	—	—

Rodent Control

The campaign against rodents was again vigorously carried on throughout the year, and a total of 331 properties were inspected.

A fully trained operator is employed by the Council, and Warfarin bait and sewer bait is still in use. There does not appear to be any resistance to this bait as yet in this district and treatment carried out gave good results

Treatment following householders' complaints is carried out free of charge, but a labour and material charge is levied on business or industry. A number of concerns have a contract with the Public Health Department for a monthly service to be carried out.

A half yearly sewer treatment is carried out and a statistical return of this and all other treatments during the year is made to the area control of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Swimming Baths

The Council-owned public swimming baths is situated in Mayfield Street, in the town centre.

During the summer months the baths operate on seven days of the week and is well patronised on most days.

The plunge is 75 feet long by 30 feet wide and the water is town mains supply. The water is filtered, heated and treated by the continuous flow method prior to entry to the plunge. The sand pressure filters, chlorine dosage and management is under the supervision of the Baths Superintendent. Daily chlorine dosage readings are maintained and samples of the plunge water submitted for bacteriological examination have been reported as satisfactory.

The baths are used by the schools in the area as part of their educational activities.

Schools

There are nine schools in the area of Atherton and plans are deposited for the building of a new C. of E. school in the Central Ward area.

The older schools have had modernisations and additions and are generally in fairly good condition. All possess modern toilet facilities, are reasonably equipped with drinking and washing facilities, have reasonable cloak room facilities and play area conditions.

The services for school meals, serving, dining, washing and waste disposal are well maintained, there being only isolated disruptions throughout the year. The school milk supply functioned quite satisfactorily.

All other health and welfare provisions for children in schools functioned thoroughly satisfactorily from my administrative headquarters at Alder House Clinic.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trade establishments in the town.

Houses Let in Lodgings

There are no houses let in lodgings, nor any lodging houses in the district.

Rag Flock Act

One shop only is registered under this Act, and the wider use of modern synthetic products affords a greater measure of control.

TABLE VII

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			(4) Agricultural
	(1) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(2) Non-Agricultural All Other (inc. Business Premises)	(3) Total of Cols. (1) & (2)	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	6745	1346	8091	12
II. Number of properties inspected	101	161	262	1
III. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections	138	189	327	4
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Section II) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats	—	—	—	—
{ Major	73	114	187	1
{ Minor	—	—	—	—
(b) Mice	28	47	75	—
V. Number of infested properties treated	101	161	262	1
VI. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments	109	174	283	1
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:				
(a) Treatment	—	—	Nil	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	Nil	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	Nil	—
IX. Legal Proceedings	—	—	Nil	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	Nil	—

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision
of Food

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Places under Inspection

The number of food premises, by type of business, at end of 1964 were as follows:

Grocers	91
Bakers	19
Confectioners (sweets, minerals, ice cream), etc.	40
Fried Fish Shops	18
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked meat, tripe, etc.)	21
Greengrocers	9
Fishmongers	6
Canteens, Snack Bars and Licensed Premises	49
Others	3

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1951, include:—

	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections during 1964
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit and Vegetables	5	12
„ Meat and Meat Products ...	3	5
Bakehouses	15	33
Fried Fish Shops	18	27
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises	3	10
Sausages, etc., Preparing Premises ...	16	34
Ice Cream Shops	56	66

Food Premises

All premises used for the storage of food, food shops and warehouses, received visits and inspections through the year.

No statutory proceedings were taken, but instances of bad practices or infringement of the code of clean food handling, merited notification to the management and called for further re-visits. This is a satisfying and well worth while duty and improvements achieved make this important aspect of public health work most gratifying.

It is fair to say that standards remain fairly good, but it is surprising how even the experienced and well versed food handler can form habits and practices one would not expect of him. It seems inevitable that closer supervision would bear fruit on shops displaying and handling pre-cooked foods.

Food sampling under the Food & Drugs Act is carried out by the inspectors of the Lancashire County Council, who are the Food & Drugs Authority for this purpose. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the list of such foodstuffs which I reprint in the text of this report.

Slaughterhouses

There are two privately-owned licensed slaughterhouses in the district, operating on six days of the week.

The larger of the two establishments is a modern up to date business concern, with a throughput of 60 to 70 beasts per day for some periods. This calls for an inspector to devote virtually the whole of his day in implementing fully the Meat Inspection regulations. The other slaughterhouse is older established, but is still an active useful unit, possessing the necessary facilities and accounting for some 30 beasts per week.

A weekly rota system for the two inspectors ensures that all carcase meat is examined and stamped in accordance with existing regulations.

Details of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year are shown herewith.

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. Slaughtered	5327	11655	7	13646	1156
No. Inspected	5327	11655	7	13646	1156
No. of visits made for this purpose—850.					

All Diseases other than T.B.

Whole Carcases condemned	2	72	—	9	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2768	5313	—	1280	158
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	52	46.2	—	9.4	13.7

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases condemned (Irish)	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	17	3	—	—	—

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
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Milk Supply

The Milk and Dairies Regulations legislate that the local

authority register milk distributors and dairy farmers are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations), 1959.

Milk sold now in this area is either pastuerised, sterilised, or known as “untreated”, the latter now being generally accepted as being free from tuberculosis, i.e., from tuberculin tested cattle.

This untreated milk may nevertheless be infected with other germs capable of causing ill health in man, such as brucella (undulant fever) and various types of food poisoning. All milk should therefore be made safe by heat treatment.

Samples secured locally and submitted for bacteriological examination were reported as satisfactory and those taken by County Sampling Officers for chemical analysis are shown in the table of Food & Drugs samples.

The results of samples taken locally are:

- (a) Raw Milk:
 - (i) Tuberculosis—biological tests—
No. of samples 5. No. positive nil. No. negative 5.
 - (ii) Methylene Blue Test—
No. of samples 5. No. satisfactory 5. No. unsatisfactory nil.
- (b) “Heat treated” Milk:
 - (i) Phosphatase Test—
No. of samples 5. No. satisfactory 5. No. unsatisfactory nil.
 - (ii) Turbidity Test—
No. of samples 5. No. satisfactory 5. No. unsatisfactory nil.
 - (iii) Methylene Blue Test—
No. of samples 5. No. satisfactory 5. No. unsatisfactory nil.

Food Inspection

Condemnation of mainly canned foodstuff is carried out at once where the consignee makes a request for either a considerable quantity or a specific condition. Other quantities due to burst, rust or blown not requiring immediate attention are dealt with weekly at the bulk issue depots and during inspection visits for the smaller retailer.

Quantities condemned consisted of:

Fruit	224 tins—205 lbs.
Meats (corned beef, tongue, etc.	136 tins—356 lbs.
Vegetables	254 tins—119 lbs.
Others (fish, tomatoes, etc.) ...	280 tins— 99 lbs.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

A total of 101 samples was obtained, consisting of 65 samples of milk (four of which were samples of Channel Islands milk) and 36 others comprising:

1 Soothing Powders	2 Self Raising Flour
1 Coffee	1 Part Loaf of Bread
1 Lard	1 Cornflour
1 Mustard Paste	1 Pie Filling
1 Jam	1 Castor Oil B.P.
2 Camphorated Oil B.P.	1 Gravy Browning
1 Tincture of Iodine B.P.	1 Lemon Juice
1 Vegetables, dried	1 Ice Lolly Syrup
2 Sulphatriad suspension	1 Milk Pudding, canned
1 Biscuits	1 Cocoa
1 Cough Medicine	1 Black Molasses
1 Bicarbonate of Soda	1 Sugar
1 Margarine	1 Honey
1 Semolina	1 Custard Powder
1 Table Jelly	2 Christmas Tree Decorations,
1 Christmas Pudding	edible
1 Sweets	

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 Part Loaf of bread	Contained 7 mgms. of carbonised wheat starch probably derived from oven tray	Complainant and bakery informed
1 Formal milk	Fat 2.90%, deficient 3.3% fat	Farmer notified
1 Formal milk	Contained 0.02 International Unit penicillin per ml.	Dairy informed
1 Formal Channel Islands milk	Contained 6.9% extraneous water. Deficient 3.8% solids-not-fat	Legal proceedings instituted. Farmer fined £5 and ordered to pay costs
1 Ice lolly syrup	The trade name "Edifas" which appears in the list of ingredients on the label instead of "methyl cellulose" is not the common or usual name of the food	Manufacturer communicated with

SECTION F

Housing

SECTION F HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—	Houses	Flats
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(i) By the Local Authority	93	—
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	222	—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		418
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose		547
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:		
(a) Number dealt with during the year		20
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year		183
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit		311

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957 and 1961):—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:		
(a) Unfit houses		80
(b) Other houses		—
(2) Number of persons displaced		211
(3) Families		71

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

	No. of houses	No. of persons displaced
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:— Housing Act, 1957:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	1	12
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 16 and still in force	—	—

(2) Repairs during the year:—

*No. of
houses

(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	177
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners	4
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Housing Act, 1957—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11):— Houses made fit:—	
(i) By owners	--
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

4. **Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—**

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil

*A defective house remedied more than once during the year is included once only.

Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during the year:—

	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwellings Affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to Local Authority	56	56
(b) Approved by Local Authority	42	42
(c) Submitted by L.A. to Ministry	—	—
(d) Approved by the Ministry	—	—
(e) Works completed	35	35

House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959— Standard Grants—

	No. of Dwellings Affected
(a) Applications submitted to L.A.	64
(b) Applications approved by L.A.	49
(c) Work completed	54
(Includes approvals in 1963 and work completed in 1964).	

General Inspections

Houses (including re-visits)	1187
Schools	29
Factories and Workplaces	121
Bakehouses	103
Food preparing premises	220
Miscellaneous, etc.	340
Shops	192
Slaughter-houses	5
	2197

In connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:—

	Found	Remedied
House roofs in need of repair	109	107
Defective W.C.s	76	73
Choked or defective drains	29	28
Defective plaster on walls, etc.	108	97
Insanitary conditions of yards	1	1
House walls damp	102	89
Defective eaves gutters	28	21
Defective windows, etc.	32	27
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	—	—
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, etc.)	92	73
	577	516

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz.:

Informal	193
Statutory	23

GENERAL—Conditions and Observations

The population of Atherton is 19,520, living in 6,930 dwelling houses, providing a rateable value of £493,600. The acreage is 2,200 acres.

The main industries are cotton, coal, engineering, and nut and bolt manufacture. Although cotton has been streamlined to suit modern manufacturing techniques, and only one coal mine remains in active production, other light industries have taken up premises vacated.

The clearance of the older sub standard properties continues and some new privately developed estates add value to, and enhance the township.

A new programme of slum clearance covering the five years 1965 to 1970 is in operation and where terraced rows and blocks of property are involved, a plan and proposed development of the area is hoped to be brought into being.

There are no back to back houses or Common lodging houses in the area. Baths, hot water and flush sanitation are absent in a considerable number of the older terraced houses.

Council house building programme continues and two appreciable sites of some 70 dwellings per site, should be ready for occupation during 1965 onwards.

The number of Council houses is now over 2,300, and the demand for these properties continues.

Standard grants for the improvement of older houses are still available, but the demand has not been as great as in previous years.

In the field of atmospheric pollution the No. 2 Smoke Control Area was the subject of a Public Inquiry and therefore could not be expected to become operative before the end of 1965. Despite setbacks and minor hindrances, this order will be welcomed.

SECTION G

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement

SECTION G

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

Atmospheric Pollution

From the readings taken and statistical information gathered the atmospheric pollution in the area remains fairly high. Meters are established at the Town Hall and at a location in the Parks Department in the West Ward of the town. The readings show quite emphatically the denser pollution conditions prevailing during the coal burning period of the winter months and lend support to the argument for Clean Air.

In this campaign for Clean Air the No. 2 Smoke Control Order, surveyed, itemised and meticulously studied was put to the Council for implementation. A Public Inquiry that resulted will of itself delay the introduction of the order and in further orders. This well intentioned environmental health measure is both a continuous and contiguous process and there is little merit in halts of any description in the wider vision of Clean Air for the whole town.

A table showing the average daily amount of pollution is appended.

	Average daily amounts of pollution in microgrammes per cubic metre of air			
	SMOKE		SULPHUR	
	Town Hall	Parks Garage	Town Hall	Parks Garage
January	443	426	392	160
February	279	273	252	120
March	228	258	208	137
April	199	143	142	89
May	119	87	99	77
June	136	107	98	66
July	102	67	92	67
August	134	102	99	79
September	195	170	137	103
October	361	349	221	159
November	370	365	236	120
December	340	387	304	137

